

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office action mailed July 12, 2004. For this response claims 1 – 14 remain pending in the application. Claims 15 – 20 have been cancelled without prejudice pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 1 and 10 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 2 – 9 and 11 – 14 have been allowed by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Amendment to the Specification and Claims

The specification has been amended to correct a minor typographical errors. Claim 1 has also been amended to correct a typographical error.

Allowed Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2 – 9 and 11 – 14 are allowable over the prior art. The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowability of these claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 10 as being anticipated by Martin, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,424,996). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

The Examiner states, *inter alia*, that Martin, et al. discloses a second line connected to the output of the buffer 16 and to the output of the second latch 12 (Fig. 2). The Applicants respectfully disagree. The line that is connected to the output of buffer 14 is connected to output terminal 22, which is also connected to the output of buffer 16. The output of latch 12 is connected to the input of buffer 16, not to the output of buffer 14, as stated by the Examiner. In contrast, as shown in Fig. 3 of the present application, the output of buffer 30 is connected to the output of latch 24, not to a node that is connected to the output of another buffer, as shown in Fig. 2 in Martin, et al.

Claim 1 recites a “second conductive line being connected to the output of the buffer and to the output of the second latch”. This is not taught or suggested by Martin, et al. For a claim to be anticipated, each and every

element in the claim must be disclosed in the reference relied on to make the rejection. For at least the reason that the above-quoted element is not disclosed in Martin, et al., the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Martin, et al. and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

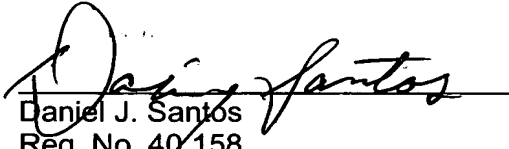
Furthermore, not only does Martin, et al. not disclose this element, Martin, et al. does not teach or suggest this element, either explicitly or implicitly. This is evident from the fact that if either of buffers 14 or 16 shown in Fig. 2 in Martin, et al. were to be eliminated, the dual transparent latch circuit disclosed in Martin, et al. would not work for its intended purpose, which is to increase the speed of a circuit to twice that of the master clock. If either of the latches 14 or 16 were to be eliminated, then the output of the latch that is not being driven by a buffer would always appear at the output terminal 22. This would destroy the timing of the entire circuit, and thus the purpose of the invention disclosed in Martin, et al. Therefore, the output of buffer 14 is not and could not be connected to the output of latch 12.

Independent claim 10 recites the same connectivity recited in independent claim 1, and therefore also is not anticipated by Martin, et al. for the reasons set forth above with reference to the rejection of claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 10 also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should there be any further questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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